



# LONDON- WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA8 | The Chalfonts and Amersham  
**Baseline report (CH-001-008)**  
Cultural heritage

November 2013

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High Speed Two (HS2) Limited,  
Eland House,  
Bressenden Place,  
London SW1E 5DU

Details of how to obtain further copies are available from HS2 Ltd.

Telephone: 020 7944 4908

General email enquiries: [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Structure of the cultural heritage appendices

1.1.1 The cultural heritage appendices for The Chalfonts and Amersham area community forum area (CFA8) comprise:

- baseline reports (this appendix);
- a gazetteer of heritage assets (Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-008);
- impact assessment table (Volume 5: Appendix CH-003-008); and
- survey reports (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-008).

1.1.2 Maps referred to throughout the cultural heritage appendices are contained in the Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book.

## 1.2 Content and scope

1.2.1 This baseline provides the evidence base against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the Proposed Scheme can be determined. It collates information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presents a chronological description and discussion of the development of the study area placing assets within their historical and archaeological context.

## 1.3 Study area

1.3.1 The Chalfonts and Amersham study area falls within the Chiltern District of Buckinghamshire and the Three Rivers District of Hertfordshire, comprising parts of the civil parishes of Denham, Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles, Coleshill and Amersham.

1.3.2 In accordance with the scope and methodology report (SMR) (Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/1) and the SMR addendum (Volume 5: Appendix CT-001-000/2) the study area has been defined as a 500m buffer around the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme for all heritage assets including any built heritage assets (but not archaeological sites) within the 10mm settlement contour<sup>1</sup> and the setting of designated heritage assets within the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV).

1.3.3 All identified assets are listed in CH-002-008 and shown on maps CH-01-025b to CH-01-028 and CH-02-012 to CH-02-013 in Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book.

## 1.4 Data sources

1.4.1 Sources examined as part of this baseline assessment include published secondary sources, cartographic sources, historic environment record (HER) data for undesignated heritage assets and English Heritage National Heritage List (NHL) data

<sup>1</sup> The area in which ground settlement is estimated to be 10mm in depth above the bored tunnel.

for designated assets. A full list of published sources can be found in Section 9 of this appendix.

## **1.5 Surveys undertaken**

**1.5.1** The following surveys were undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process:

- light detection and ranging (LiDAR) survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-008);
- hyperspectral survey of the majority of the land around the Proposed Scheme (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-008);
- a programme of geophysical prospection at Ashwell's Farm (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-008);
- site reconnaissance field inspections to review the setting of historic assets and the character and form of the historic landscape; and
- an assessment of hedgerows to identify those that qualify as being important under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Statutory Instruments 1997 No. 1160 The Hedgerows Regulations 1997.

## 2 Geology, topography and landform

2.1.1 The Chalfonts and Amersham study area lies on the dip-slope of the Chilterns and flanks the valley of the River Misbourne which drains eastward to the River Colne and thence to the River Thames.

2.1.2 The underlying geology of southernmost part of the study area in the Colne Valley comprises Chalk of Cretaceous and Palaeogene date. Predominantly these are chalks of the London Group, Seaford Chalk Formation and New Haven Chalk Formation. To the north of Gerrard's Cross is an isolated area of underlying geology comprising clay, silt and sand of Palaeogene date - part of the Lambeth Group.

2.1.3 The solid geology is overlain by superficial silt, sand and gravel deposits dating to the Quaternary period. These deposits are predominately Beaconsfield Gravel and Gerrard's Cross Gravel. Former local industry within this southernmost part of the study area is represented by evidence of former and current gravel pits both in the landscape and on earlier Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.

2.1.4 From Chalfont St Giles northwards the study area is located within the Misbourne Valley. The underlying geology comprises chalk of Cretaceous date which outcrops on the valley sides of the River Misbourne but on the adjacent plateau eastwards it is overlain by superficial Clay-with-Flints deposits of Pleistocene date. Predominantly these are chalks of the Lewes Nodular Formation, the Seaford Formation and the New Pit Formation - all within the Sussex White Chalk Subgroup. These form heavy acidic, stony brown earths difficult to cultivate and often lacking fertility.

2.1.5 Interspersed along the scarp and dip-slope the Chilterns landscape is dissected by a network of dry valleys that dip gently south-east towards the River Thames. These river valleys were excavated under periglacial conditions and are generally floored by thick layers of chalk and clay derived from valley sides which have thin, well-drained rendzina soils.

2.1.6 The superficial deposits of Clay-with-Flints are extensive on the plateau with some glacial head (colluvial) deposits within the valley floor of the River Misbourne to the west of the study area and alluvial deposits within the valley floor throughout the study area. It is possible that erosion on the plateau land and valley sides of the Misbourne and its tributaries will have also resulted in deposition of colluvium on lower slopes and within the valley floor. Such alluvial and colluvial deposits have the potential to mask archaeological deposits and to 'seal in' deposits of palaeoenvironmental interest.

2.1.7 The River Misbourne rises on the outskirts of Great Misbourne and flows generally southwards through Chalfont St Giles and Chalfont St Peter to its confluence with the River Colne. The valley forms a natural routeway across the dip-slope of the Chilterns from its confluence with the Colne and thence the Thames near Denham to the south-east to the scarp slope overlooking the Vale of Aylesbury near Wendover to the north-west.

2.1.8 The study area is generally characterised by chalk plateau land, dissected by valleys, such as the River Misbourne, draining to the south-east. These valleys have their own small tributary systems that are today mainly only active in winter or very wet periods.

2.1.9 The study area is predominantly rural and agricultural. The present settlement character is predominantly one of dispersed settlement comprising farmsteads and small hamlets adjacent to the principal valleys set within a heavily wooded landscape, much of it ancient beechwood. The principal settlements of Chalfont St Peter and Chalfont St Giles are situated on the valley side of the River Misbourne, with the settlement of Amersham situated on the valley floor. Smaller settlements are situated either side of the valley slopes, set within gently undulating chalk hills.

2.1.10 Former local industry is represented throughout this section of the study area evidenced by former chalk pits both in the landscape and on earlier OS maps. These are all small and dispersed examples. No active pits are currently being worked within the study area.

2.1.11 The London Marylebone to Aylesbury railway line and the A413 are the primary communication routes through the study area both lying near the bottom of the Misbourne Valley along which they pass throughout the length of the study area. The A413 is joined on its eastern side by several minor roads which serve the surrounding villages, hamlets and dispersed farms and other residences.

# 3 Archaeological and historical background

## 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section provides a chronological overview of the archaeological evidence within the study area. This baseline review forms a contextualisation within which individual assets can be considered. Descriptions of all archaeological assets, whether designated or not, which lie wholly or partially within land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme, within the 10mm settlement contour, or within 500m of the edge of the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme are contained in the Gazetteer in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-008. The assets are mapped on maps CH-01-025b to CH-01-028 (Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book). The Gazetteer also considers all designated archaeological assets within the ZTV. The Gazetteer entries include assessments of value where appropriate.

## 3.2 Early prehistory (circa 500,000 - 1,500 BC)

3.2.1 It is likely that Palaeolithic (circa 500,000 years (BC – circa 10,000 BC) hominids moved onto and through the Chilterns utilising the Misbourne Valley as indicated by finds of a Palaeolithic hand axe and two smaller flints to the north of Wheatley Wood (CHA076). A further three Palaeolithic hand axes were found in the area of Nortoft Road in Chalfont St Peter and further flint tools at Chalfont St Giles (both outside of the study area); hand axes have been found in nearly all of the dip-slope valleys of the Chilterns.

3.2.2 Hunter-gatherer groups in the Mesolithic period (circa 10,000 BC - circa 4,000 BC) increasingly began to exploit a wider range of landscapes and localities<sup>3</sup> potentially including the Misbourne Valley slopes and plateau landscape that makes up much of the study area. Given the established exploitation of the uplands elsewhere in Britain there may be a potential, albeit quite low, for remains of this date to lie within the study area. Given the necessity of both water and other resources the landscape overlooking the River Misbourne may represent the best opportunity for the survival of such evidence.

3.2.3 The Chiltern dip-slope is identified in the Solent Thames Archaeological Research Framework<sup>4</sup> as having seen human activity from at least the Mesolithic (circa 10,000 BC – circa 4,000 BC) period (and probably from the later Palaeolithic (circa 50,000 BC – circa 10,000 BC)) and that human activity through all periods has largely been concentrated in the principal valley systems specifically within and immediately adjacent to the Misbourne Valley.

<sup>3</sup> Barton, R.N.E. and Roberts, A. J. (2004): 'The Mesolithic period in England: current perspectives and new research' in Saville, A (ed) *Mesolithic Scotland and its Neighbours*. Society of Antiquaries of Scotland: Edinburgh

<sup>4</sup> Silva, B. (2008) *An Archaeological Resource Assessment of the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic in Buckinghamshire*. Prepared for the Solent-Thames Research Framework Resource Assessment: The Lower / Middle Palaeolithic Period.

- 3.2.4 Outside the study area discoveries of Mesolithic flints have been made at Chalfont St Giles, at First Wood Amersham and during excavations ahead of the A413 Amersham bypass in 1982-4.
- 3.2.5 The Neolithic (circa 4,000 BC – circa 2,400 BC) period is generally characterised by more permanent settlement, a reduction in nomadic, transient hunter-gatherer groups, and by the establishment of farming. It should be noted, however, that despite this shift to agriculture, hunting, gathering and fishing remained important to the local economies<sup>5</sup>.
- 3.2.6 Evidence of Neolithic (circa 4,000 BC – circa 2,400 BC) activity has been recorded within the study area from discoveries of flint tools north of Wheatley Wood (CHA076), Mopes Farm (CHA005), Horn Hill (CHA008) and Misbourne Farm (CHA030).

### **3.3 Later prehistory (circa 1,500 BC - AD 43)**

- 3.3.1 The Bronze Age (circa 2,400 BC – circa 700 BC) is defined by the first use of copper and bronze working in Britain as well as the introduction of Beaker pottery. The evidence for Bronze Age settlement is much scarcer than that for funerary activity. Early Bronze Age settlement evidence is likely to be broadly similar to that of the Neolithic comprising artefactual evidence and limited features, overwhelmingly in-filled pits.
- 3.3.2 Evidence of Bronze Age activity has been recorded within the study area from discoveries of flint tools north of Wheatley Wood (CHA076), Mopes Farm (CHA005), Horn Hill (CHA008) and Misbourne Farm (CHA030) where two putative Bronze Age burnt mounds have also been recorded.
- 3.3.3 The Bronze Age pattern of isolated farmsteads shifted in the Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43) when larger settlements and more centralised features such as hillforts were constructed. Communities during the Iron Age period favoured the higher ground overlooking the river valleys although evidence of Iron Age settlement in the study area is scarce. Investigations at the possible multi-period archaeological site north of Wheatley Wood (CHA076), however, did produce Iron Age pottery.

### **3.4 Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)**

- 3.4.1 It appears that the higher ground on the Chiltern dip-slope was generally avoided for settlement during the late Iron Age and Roman periods with settlement being attracted to the valleys on the dip-slope, specifically that of the Misbourne<sup>6</sup>.
- 3.4.2 Roman villas begin to appear in the countryside from the late 1st to early 2nd century AD typically at approximately 2-3km intervals and a number are recorded in the Misbourne Valley<sup>7</sup>. A possible villa site has been identified at Misbourne Farm (CFA030), indicated by artefacts found during fieldwalking. Records of a tessellated floor found during excavation of Shardeloes Lake (CHA068) and further artefacts discovered to the north of Wheatley Wood (CHA076) indicate the presence of another

<sup>5</sup> Thomas, J., (1999), *Understanding the Neolithic*, Routledge, London

<sup>6</sup> Zeepvat, R. J. and Radford, D., (2010) "Roman Buckinghamshire", in Farley, M (ed) *An Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society. Aylesbury

<sup>7</sup> Zeepvat and Radford, (2010)

villa. The close proximity of these sites suggest the possibility that all may have been combined within a single large villa estate complex.

3.4.3 The routes of two putative Roman roads are recorded within the study area - one running from Chorleywood to Langley Park (CHA006) and a second running from Nash Mills to Flaunden (CHA054).

### 3.5 Early medieval (AD 410 - 1066)

3.5.1 Evidence of material culture from the early medieval period (AD 410 - AD 1066) is sparse; pottery does not survive well in plough soils, coinage is very rare and many settlements have since been built over by later ones. No archaeological sites of the period are currently known within the study area. Anglo-Saxon inhumations, however, were excavated along with Romano-British inhumations at Mantles Green Meadow in proximity to the study area north of Amersham<sup>8</sup>.

3.5.2 The Domesday survey of 1086 contains entries for Amersham, Chalfont St Giles and Chalfont St Peter. These manors accommodated 25, 20 and 25 households respectively, and two, one and six mills respectively most probably established on the River Misbourne.

### 3.6 Medieval (1066 - 1539)

3.6.1 Evidence for medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1540) settlement is most likely to be found in proximity to the historic cores of the three settlements of Amersham (a medieval planned town), Chalfont St Giles and Chalfont St Peter.

3.6.2 A medieval manorial site has been identified at Shardeloes (CHA067) and The Vache (CHA025). Farmsteads with potential medieval origins have also been recognised at Ashwells Farm (CHA017), Gellibrands (CHA007), Bowstridge Farm (CHA011), Coldharbour Farm (CHA0044), Woodrow Farm (CHA052) and probably at Lower Bottom Farm (CHA031). Some of these may also represent former manorial sites.

3.6.3 The broad pattern of landscape and settlement which exists in the study area today was laid out during the early medieval and medieval period. Dispersed settlements and isolated farmsteads surrounded by agricultural hinterland predominated, with scattered manors in the surrounding countryside. The landscape was likely to have been at least partially wooded. The exception to this characterisation is the medieval planned town of Amersham.

### 3.7 Post-medieval (1539 - 1900)

3.7.1 This pattern of medieval settlement most probably continued through the post-medieval (AD 1540 – AD 1900) period as evidenced by extant post-medieval dwellings in the core of the three settlements of Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles and Amersham. This does not preclude the presence of post-medieval buried structures in the more rural areas. Cartographic evidence suggests a number of farmhouses and

<sup>8</sup> Yeoman, P.A. and Stewart, J.J., (1992), *A Romano-British Villa Estate at Mantles Green, Buckinghamshire*. Records of Buckinghamshire 34 p107-182

associated farm buildings had been established by this period mainly at the locations of extant farms.

### **3.8 Twentieth century/modern (1900 - present)**

3.8.1 This pattern of landscape and settlement is likely to have remained unaltered until the expansion of the London suburbs aided by the building of the railways in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The growth of the settlements of Chalfont St Peter and Amersham was further increased by the establishment of the 'Metrolands' during the mid-20th century. The Metroland suburbs were designed as an escape from the capital to an idyllic 'countryside' lifestyle, yet crucially connected to the city by rail.

# 4 Built heritage

## 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section provides information relating to built heritage assets for CFA8. A broad overview of character and form of the settlement pattern within the study area can be found in Section 6 of this appendix. This section provides the following information:

- descriptions of all built heritage assets or asset groupings wholly or partially within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme. Any assets within the 10mm settlement contour are included within the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme. This includes descriptions of settlements where relevant;
- descriptions of all built heritage assets or asset groupings wholly or partially within 500m of the edge of the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme. This includes descriptions of settlements where relevant; and
- descriptions of selected designated assets within the ZTV.

4.1.2 Further information on all these assets and other designated assets which lie within the ZTV but are not described in Section 4.4 of this appendix can be found in the Gazetteer in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-008. The assets are mapped on Maps CH-01-025b to CH-01-028 and CH-02-012 to CH-02-013 in Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book.

## 4.2 Built heritage assets within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme

4.2.1 The following built heritage assets or asset grouping, both designated and non-designated, lie wholly or partially within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme. For the purpose of this assessment any assets within the 10mm settlement contour are included within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme. The assets are described from south to north.

### Robert's Farm (CHA003) and Tubb's Cottages (CHA012)

4.2.2 Robert's Farm (CHA003) and Tubb's Cottages (CHA012) are two non-designated buildings of post-medieval date which are shown on the 1st edition OS map and are located within the 10m settlement contour.

### Ashwell's Barn (CHA017)

4.2.3 Ashwell's Barn is a large 17th to 18th century timber-framed structure located within the asset grouping of Ashwell's Farm (CHA017). For a full discussion on the history of the farm complex see Section 4.3. Ashwell's Barn is located within the 10mm settlement contour.

4.2.4 The weatherboarded barn has a queen strut roof truss, was previously part of the farm buildings of Ashwell's Farm and has now been converted into a separate residential dwelling. The barn is set upon a brick plinth and has an old tile roof.

4.2.5 The value of the asset is as an extant example of a timber-framed post-medieval barn and its association with the farmhouse. The setting of the asset that contributes to its value is derived from its relationship with its agricultural and rural environs and the association with Newlands House and Park.

### **Chalfont St Giles Conservation Area (CHA019)**

4.2.6 The village of Chalfont St Giles is located at the bottom of the Misbourne Valley with the river meander along the eastern boundary of the settlement acting as a clear demarcation between the urban area and the adjoining open meadowland. The principal attribution of high value to the settlement lies in its designation as a conservation area, the presence of the Grade I listed Milton's Cottage, Grade I listed Church of St Giles and the Grade II\* listed The Old Rectory (all included within grouping CHA019). The northern section of the conservation area is located within the 10mm settlement contour.

4.2.7 The Chalfont St Giles Conservation Area (CHA019) encompasses the old core of the village and includes 33 listed buildings. The village green forms the centrepiece of the area enclosed by a compact pattern of buildings. The 17th century Grade II\* listed The Rectory (within grouping CHA019) is located within the centre of the village close to the village green. The Grade I listed Church of St Giles (within grouping CHA019), which has 13th century origins although much was restored during the late 19th century, is set back from the main road running through the village and is entirely surrounded by the associated churchyard. The properties within the village are well-maintained and in total make up a very pleasant and attractive group of buildings which give the village special character.

4.2.8 The southern part of the conservation area includes part of the High Street and a lower part of Dean Way. Buildings along this section of the High Street feature a continuous façade and together with linking walls form a narrow corridor connecting The Green and open land adjoining Milton's Cottage. The Grade I listed Milton's Cottage (within grouping CHA019) was once the residence of the poet John Milton who moved to the village in 1665 where he finished his well-known poem Paradise Lost. Milton's Cottage is situated within the Grade II registered park and garden (RPG) also known as Milton's Cottage (CHA020).

### **The Stone Cottage, attached barn and outbuildings (CHA019)**

4.2.9 The Stone Cottage complex (within asset grouping CHA019) is a Grade II listed L-shaped range of timber framed and brick farm buildings with a cottage attached to the north-east end. The asset is located within the 10mm settlement contour.

4.2.10 The complex has evidence of 17th century origins but with much development and alterations in the 18th and 19th centuries. The value of the complex is principally derived from the cottage, barn and outbuilding providing an example of a grouping of post-medieval vernacular farm buildings. The Stone Cottage complex was originally farm buildings associated with the Stone estate and hence the setting of the asset in

close proximity to The Stone, the principle buildings of the estate makes an important contribution to the value of the asset.

### **Lower Bottom Farm (CHAo31)**

4.2.11 Lower Bottom Farm (CHAo31) is a farmstead with four Grade II listed buildings centred on a 19th century farmhouse. This asset is attributed a moderate value.

4.2.12 Lower Bottom Farmhouse is an early 19th century red brick house possibly incorporating earlier fabric at the rear. Associated with the farmhouse is a late 18th century to early 19th century timber-framed barn, late 18th century to early 19th century timber granary on stone saddles and a late 18th century to early 19th century brick stables (included for group value). The granary is the only structure within the Lower Bottom Farm grouping to be located partially within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme.

4.2.13 The value of Lower Bottom Farm is considered to primarily reside in the 18th century built fabric of the farm complex and the group value of the various buildings. The complex is situated in an agricultural landscape on either side of a medieval holloway. The immediate and broader setting of the buildings contribute to their value though this is diminished to some degree by large modern farm buildings forming part of the same farm complex.

### **Shardeloes (CHAo67)**

4.2.14 Shardeloes is a large country estate within the Chiltern hills south of Amersham (CHAo67). A large proportion of the estate is located within the Shardeloes Conservation Area within which there are six listed buildings; the rest of the parkland is located within the Grade II\* RPG. To avoid repetition this section will focus upon the built heritage within Shardeloes with the wider designed landscape and parkland discussed in Section 6.2 of this report. The route passes directly through the parkland the conservation area.

4.2.15 This asset has been attributed high value as a result of the fabric of the Grade I listed Shardeloes House and its association with well-known architects of the 18th and 19th centuries. The setting of the house within the designed landscape makes an important contribution to the value of Shardeloes further enhanced by the involvement of Humphrey Repton.

4.2.16 The Grade I listed Shardeloes House was built between 1758-66 for William Drake on the site of an earlier house thought to be medieval in date. The main architect on the project was Stiff Leadbetter with alterations to the exterior and interior design made by Robert Adam. A number of the interior features were designed by James Wyatt dating from the late 18th century.

4.2.17 The two-storey building (with attic space) has painted cement rendering with stone dressings to the exterior facades and a slate roof with parapet and cornice detailing. The north-east (main front) elevation has nine bays with the central three bays incorporating a Portland stone portico with Corinthian columns and pilasters, frieze, modillion cornice and pediment. Each of the outer bays project slightly and have pedimented ground floor windows set in semi-circular headed arched recesses. The

elevation has a central pedimented doorway. The south-east elevation is of seven bays with a pedimented doorway to the centre and outer bays and windows mimicking the design of the north-east elevation. The south-west elevation has more closely spaced fenestration. The entrance hall, dining room, library and bedroom in the south-east range are all of high quality with decorations by Adam and Wyatt.

4.2.18 There are five Grade II listed buildings located within the Shardeloes estate: the early 19th century stucco lodge house, late 18th century classical summerhouse in the style of a mansion late 18th century ornamental iron gates and hollow iron gate piers the brick wall of the late 18th century walled kitchen garden and the 18th century stable block now converted for residential use and included for group value.

4.2.19 The brick walls and buildings of the walled kitchen garden, dating from 1787-9, form an element of the parkland landscape and are located directly within the 10mm settlement contour. The walled gardens are thought to possibly incorporate elements of an earlier water garden dating from the 1720s. The walls and building of the kitchen gardens are Grade II listed and located within the 10mm settlement contour. For a full description of the Shardeloes estate see Section 6.2 of this report and Appendix CH-002-008.

4.2.20 The remains of a non-listed ice house are recorded within the grounds of the estate north of the main house. In addition a brick bridge of unknown date is recorded crossing the River Misbourne near where it is dammed in order to create Shardeloes Lake. This western part of the lake was utilised as watercress beds during the 19th century.

4.2.21 During World War II Shardeloes House was requisitioned to be used as a maternity hospital for expectant mothers from areas affected by the blitz. In the latter part of the 20th century the main house and a number of outbuildings, including the stable block, were converted into flats.

## **4.3 Built heritage asset within 500m of the boundary of the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme**

4.3.1 The following built heritage assets or asset groupings, both designated and non-designated, lie wholly or partially within 500m of the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme. The assets are described from south to north.

### **Ashwell's Farmhouse (CHAo17)**

4.3.2 Ashwell's Farmhouse (within grouping CHAo17) is a Grade II listed structure situated on Chesham Lane. The lane may be of medieval or post-medieval origin but has been widened to accommodate modern traffic. The proposed Chalfont St Peter ventilation shaft is located around 230m to the south of Ashwell's Farm.

4.3.3 Ashwell's Farmhouse is a two-storey 17th century timber-framed house with brick infill to the framing. The west range of the building has three bays with a large chimney stack on the gable end with a smaller stack located to the centre of the

range. A small single-storey extension has been added to the gable end of the west elevation. Though not original to the initial construction of the farmhouse the extension is thought to contain historic fabric. The east range has three bays with a large chimney stack with a number of offsets on the gable end. Within the interior a number of the rooms feature exposed elements of the timber-framed structure with the main drawing room containing oak panelling. A number of the small former farm buildings surrounding the farmhouse have been converted for domestic use.

4.3.4 Though the extant Ashwell's Farm was built in the 17th century rental documentation for the area from 1333 indicates that John de Asschewell was living at a site known as 'Ashwells' suggesting that site may have medieval origins.

4.3.5 Ashwell's Farm is situated at the end of an avenue to Newlands House and Park (CHA015). The current house at Newlands Park (CHA014) dates to 1770. The site, however, is known to date from at least 1208. Ashwell's Farm may have had an association with Newlands House and Park and there would have been inter-visibility between the farm and the house at Newlands.

4.3.6 The field boundaries surrounding the farm are broadly contemporaneous with Ashwell's Farm although those immediately surrounding the buildings have been altered to accommodate relatively modern wooded and landscaped gardens.

4.3.7 The value of the asset is as an extant example of a timber-framed post-medieval farmhouse and the associated barn (see Section 4.2). The setting of the asset that contributes to its value is derived from its relationship with its agricultural and rural environs and the association with Newlands House and Park.

### **Mopes Farm (CHA004)**

4.3.8 Mopes Farm (CHA004) is a farmstead with three Grade II listed buildings centred on a 16th century farmhouse. This asset is attributed a moderate value.

4.3.9 Mopes Farmhouse is a 16th century timber-framed building with brick infill and brick clad winds. A number of additions have been made to the property in the 19th and 20th centuries. Associated with Mopes Farmhouse are two early 18th century timber-framed barns.

4.3.10 Mopes Farm is situated within a much manipulated modern landscape with Gerrard's Cross Golf Course to the west and the M25 to the east.

4.3.11 The value of the asset is as an extant example of a timber-framed post-medieval farmhouse and barns. The setting of the asset that contributes to its value is derived from the direct relationship between the farmhouse and the barns.

### **Gellibrands (CHA007)**

4.3.12 Gellibrands (CHA007) is a late 16th century or early 17th century Grade II listed timber-framed house. It was extended during the late 18th century with further alterations dating to the early 20th century.

4.3.13 The building is surrounded on all sides by fields and is located between the main road running through Horn Hill to the west and the M25 to the east. The value of the asset

is as an extant example of a timber-framed post-medieval building. The immediate open rural setting of the building contributes to its value.

### **Water Hall (CHAo79)**

4.3.14 Water Hall is (CHAo79) is a 17th century Grade II listed red brick building altered in the 18th century, located on the western fringes of Chalfont St Peter. The value of the asset is principally derived from its character and appearance as an example of 17th century vernacular architecture incorporating 18th century alterations. As a result of the modern expansion of Chalfont St Peter the setting of the asset is not seen as contemporary and hence does not contribute to the value.

### **Priscillas Cottage (CHAo80)**

4.3.15 Priscillas Cottage (CHAo80) is a Grade II listed building with 17th century origins. The building was originally a timber-framed structure; however 18th century alterations resulted in much of the timber-framing being replaced with brick. The value of the asset is principally derived from its character and appearance as an example of 17th century vernacular architecture incorporating 18th century alterations. As a result of the modern expansion of Chalfont St Peter the setting of the asset is not seen as contemporary and hence does not contribute to the value.

### **The Colony, Chalfont St Peter (CHAo13)**

4.3.16 The northern part of the settlement of Chalfont St Peter is dominated by an area known as Chalfont Common. Up until the late 19th century this area was a rural landscape made up of pre 18th century irregular fields and isolated farmsteads located to the north of the main hub of the settlement. In 1894 a residential 'colony' was established on the site by the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics (CHAo13). The site was the first in the county to provide a community for epileptics to live and work and is still in use today as a charitable medical institution for epileptic research. Focused on Skipping's Farm the centre expanded rapidly during the late 19th and early 20th centuries to include a number of accommodation blocks, a school, community buildings and the farm. There are five Grade II listed buildings located within the complex (grouped within CHAo13): Greene House, Milton House, Pearman House, Passmore Edwards and Gott's Monument.

4.3.17 The value of The Colony lies within its historical connections to the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics and the establishment of the first residential community for epileptics. The setting of the buildings in association to each other makes a contribution to the value of the asset, the wider setting of The Colony, however, is not seen as contemporary and hence does not contribute to the value of the asset.

### **Upper Bottom Farm (CHAo32)**

4.3.18 Upper Bottom Farm is an un-listed farm complex (CHAo32) located on the north and east side of a medieval holloway. The immediate and broader setting of these buildings contribute to the value of the farm complex, the modern farm buildings within the complex, however, detract to some extent from the value of the building's fabric and character.

## Amersham Old Town Conservation Area (CHAo58)

4.3.19 Amersham is a large town, situated in the Chiltern Hills, which can be classified as having two parts: an old medieval town situated in the Misbourne Valley and a 'new town' which grew around the railway station on the ridge to the north in the early to mid 20th century.

4.3.20 The Amersham Old Town Conservation Area (CHAo58) covers the compact development of medieval origin with later Georgian additions and has been well-preserved due to modern development being focused to the north and hence away from the High Street. There are 169 listed buildings within the conservation area of which one is Grade I listed (St Mary's Church) and six are Grade II\*: Sir William Drake Almshouse, The Kings Arms Hotel, Elmdoesham, 56-60 High Street, The Gables and Market Hall (all grouped within CHAo59). The majority of the buildings within the conservation area date to the 17th and 18th centuries; structures from the 15th, 16th, 19th and 20th centuries, however, are also represented.

4.3.21 A layer of distinction within the old town can be seen when comparing the grand structures built on large burgage plots on the south side of the High Street to the smaller more vernacular styles of buildings on the narrow plots to the north.

4.3.22 The principal attribution of high value to the conservation area comes from the special character and appearance of the well-preserved nature of the High Street and the high proportion of listed buildings. The character is enhanced by the contrast between the busy High Street and the open space to the west as well as features such as a number of 'glimpse views' into old courtyards and approaches experienced on the High Street which help to preserve the medieval character of the area.

## Amersham Hospital (CHAo57)

4.3.23 South of Amersham Old Town Conservation Area is the site of Amersham Hospital (three Grade II listed structures grouped within CHAo57). The hospital was built in 1838 as the Union Workhouse by the architect George Gilbert Scott well known for his Gothic-Revival style and as the architect of the Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station London. The main building is in the Tudor style with unknapped flint set in yellow mortar and red brick dressing and quoins. The gate house range and the front boundary wall with piers, railings and gates is of the same phase of construction and of the similar style. The value of Amersham Hospital principally derives from the connection with George Gilbert Scott. The setting of the asset is not considered to contribute to the value.

## Friends Meeting House (CHAo56)

4.3.24 North of Amersham Hospital is the Grade II\* listed Friends Meeting House (CHAo56). The original house at the south end was built circa 1600 and extended in 1689 to form a 'Meeting House for Friends' for the Quaker community who had been using the site since 1660. The building was extended further in the late 18th century and re-fronted in brick. A large Quaker burial ground is located to the north and west of the property. The value of the Friend's Meeting House derives from its important associations with Quaker heritage. The setting of the asset is not considered to contribute to the value.

#### **4.4 Selected designated heritage assets within the zone of theoretical visibility**

4.4.1 The criterion for inclusion within this section is that the Proposed Scheme is assessed in the impact assessment table in Volume 5: Appendix CH-003-011 as having a major or moderate adverse effect upon a designated asset which lies within the ZTV but outside of the 500m study area. Descriptions and considerations of the value of all designated assets within the ZTV can be found in the Gazetteer in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-008.

4.4.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the The Chalfonts and Amersham area which are located within the ZTV but outside of the 500m study that are deemed to have a major or moderate adverse effect as a result of the Proposed Scheme.

## 5 Historic map regression

5.1.1 The analysis of the cartographic evidence for the study area has been integrated within the archaeological and historical baseline narrative (Sections 3 and 4 of this appendix).

## 6 Historic landscape

### 6.1 Historic landscape characterisation

6.1.1 Approximately 70% of The Chalfonts and Amersham study area lies within the Chilterns area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). The AONB is based on the chalk escarpment to the north-west of Greater London with the steep scarp face overlooking the Vale of Aylesbury to the north-west and the more gently sloping dip-slope progressively decreasing in height south-east towards Greater London.

6.1.2 The historic landscape displays a mixed character of an essentially ancient rural landscape of fields and woodlands which have been strongly influenced and affected by development in the 20th century. This is particularly focused on the settlements of Chalfont St Peter and Amersham which have seen large scale growth during the 20th century.

6.1.3 The historic settlement pattern is a combination of nucleated and dispersed forms. Dispersed settlement tends to be located on higher ground taking the form of common edge settlements, linear rows and widely distributed farmsteads. Commons are amongst the most characteristic features of the AONB – part of its social and cultural heritage<sup>9</sup>. The commons, heaths and downlands have medieval or earlier origins and originally served as communal grazing land as well as sources of fuel and building materials<sup>10</sup>. The settlement of Chalfont St Peter was established around such commons - a number of which still survive within the settlement layout.

6.1.4 Historic nucleated villages and towns represented in the study area by Chalfont St Peter and Coleshill are found in the Misbourne Valley.

6.1.5 The study area has an extensive area of coaxial field systems and irregular fields of medieval and post-medieval date are much more extensive in the wider Chilterns area. Small isolated pockets of highly degraded ridge and furrow earthworks, indicative of medieval open agriculture, have been identified within the study area to the south of Ashwell's Farm (CHA017) in the remote sensing report (Appendix CH-004-008).

6.1.6 The Chilterns AONB is one of the most heavily wooded parts of the United Kingdom. It supports the most extensive area of native beech woodland in England and contains many protected woodlands. Ancient semi-natural woodlands are considered especially significant for, amongst other things, their cultural heritage value reflecting centuries of interactions between human activities and the environment. There are 21 ancient woodlands within the study area. These comprise Bloom Wood (CHA001), Roberts Wood (CHA002), Bottom Wood (CHA009), Shrubs Wood (CHA016), Pollards and Bailey Wood (CHA027), Bow Wood (CHA034), High Wood (CHA035), Days Wood (CHA036), Hodgemoor Wood (CHA037), Welpley's Wood (CHA038), Hales Wood (CHA039), Rogers Wood (CHA041), Herts Wood (CHA049), West Wood (CHA050),

<sup>9</sup> Chilterns Conservation Board, (2006), *Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Management Plan 2008 – 2013*.

<sup>10</sup> Buckinghamshire County Council, The Chilterns Conservation Board and English Heritage, (2010), *Chilterns Historic Landscape Characterisation Project: The Making of the Chiltern Landscape*,

Second Wood (CHA053), Parsonage Wood (CHA062), Wheatley Wood (CHA065), First Charsleys Wood (CFA068), Second Charsleys Wood (CFA069), Ostler's Wood (CHA070) and Weedon and High Spring Wood (CHA071).

6.1.7 Many of the farmhouses and associated agricultural buildings in the study area are representative of a wider picture of dispersed and isolated farmsteads in the Chilterns as a whole. These were for the most part built between the 17th and 19th centuries but it is generally buildings within the settlements of Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles and Amersham, and to a far lesser extent Coleshill, that comprise the majority of this period's built heritage.

6.1.8 Ashwell's Farm (CHA017) is focused around a Grade II listed building with post-medieval origins, probably early 17th century, and there are a number of other outlying farmsteads in the study area which are focused around Grade II listed buildings of post-medieval date. These comprise Mopes Farm (CHA004), Bowstridge Farm (CHA011), Lower Bottom Farm (CHA031), Coldharbour Farm (CHA044), Woodrow Farm (CHA052) and Bury Farmhouse (CHA059).

6.1.9 Three farmsteads within the study area are depicted on the 1st edition 1:2500 OS maps of 1878-1880. These comprise Robert's Farm (CHA003), Goreland's Farm (CHA018) and Upper Bottom Farm (CHA032).

6.1.10 Overall the historic landscape character within the study area comprises pockets of surviving remnant medieval, perhaps pre-medieval, coaxial field systems intermixed in a more widespread landscape of parliamentary and modern enclosure. This is set around a well-preserved mosaic of ancient semi-natural and replanted woodlands which in the designated cases may have at least medieval origins. None of these components lie within the 500m study area and as such have not been given asset numbers and are not featured within the Volume 5: Cultural Heritage Map Book.

## 6.2 Historic parks and gardens

6.2.1 Historic parks and gardens, either designated or non-designated, which lie wholly or partially within land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme, 500m study area or the 10mm settlement contour are discussed in this section. They are also listed in the Gazetteer in Appendix CH-002-008. There are no registered parks and gardens (RPG) within The Chalfonts and Amersham area which lie within the ZTV, but outside of the 500m study area where the Proposed Scheme has been assessed as having a major or moderate adverse effect. Descriptions and consideration of the value of all designated historic parks and gardens within the ZTV can be found in the Gazetteer in CH-002-008. The assets are mapped on Maps CH-01-025b to CH-01-028 and CH-02-012 to CH-02-013 in Volume 5: Cultural Heritage Map Book.

6.2.2 One RPG is located within the 10mm settlement contour for the bored tunnel: Shardeloes, a Grade II\* RPG.

### Shardeloes

6.2.3 The Grade II\* listed RPG of Shardeloes (CHA67) is an 18th century landscape park and woodland, with work by Nathaniel Richmond and Humphry Repton, surrounding an

18th century country house with the remains of a formal early 18th century parkland, possibly by Charles Bridgeman.

6.2.4 The approximately 390ha site is situated in the Chiltern hills to the west of the town of Amersham bounded to the west by Mope End Lane and on the other sides by agricultural land and woodland. The land is hilly, particularly the area north of the main house which runs north down to the valley of the River Misbourne, and then continues uphill beyond Shardeloes Lake (created by Repton by damming the River Misbourne in the 18th century) to the woodland at the northern boundary. Shardeloes Lake was constructed in the late 17th century and later extended in the mid-18th century during which evidence of Roman settlement (possibly including a Roman villa) was found.

6.2.5 The setting is largely agricultural and wooded although both Amersham and the A413 are prominent in views east from the house and northern area of the parkland. The Aylesbury to Marylebone railway crosses the woodland at the northern end of the park but, being set in a cutting, is largely unseen.

6.2.6 The extensive park is divided into northern and southern halves by High Wood west of the house and the main east drive.

6.2.7 The south park is largely arable with woodland plantations. The south corner, known as Rough Park, is largely woodland with the remains of the drive from Wycombe Lodge. North of the woodland lies undulating open arable land with views north-east to High Wood and, in the distance, of the woodland on the hillside north of the River Misbourne. High Wood seems to have been part of a circuit of pleasure grounds with paths from the garden leading through it; some of the major paths still survive as woodland tracks. In the park south and east of Summerville's Wood lie the remains of formal plantations, now much depleted, backed to the south by Wheatley Wood planted across the valley along the south-east boundary. These are probably the remains of early 18th century plantations - part of the formal layout.

6.2.8 The north park lies to the north of the house occupying the sides and bottom of the Misbourne Valley running from west to east through the landscape. It is dominated by the house at the top of the southern slope and the central lake in the valley. The southern section between the A413 and the house is largely pasture, with clumps and single trees, many of early 18th century origin their arrangement suggesting the naturalised remains of the formal layout.

6.2.9 North of the A413 lies the area with which Humphry Repton was principally concerned (designs for Shardeloes are illustrated in Repton's surviving 'Red Book' from 1794). The park has no specimen trees but is backed by woodland. Repton's proposals included a bridge under the turnpike linking the two parts of the north park and a Tuscan temple, but these were not carried out. Those proposals which were executed at least to some extent included enhancing the picturesque beauty of the beech woods on the hillside forming the backdrop to the main view north from the house, creating a drive through the woods and improving the resulting views towards the house. Traces of the drive are discernible with individual lime and horse chestnut trees apparently of late 18th century date fringing the woodlands. A prominent clump

proposed by Repton still exists in the park and the dam at the east end of the lake is masked by a plantation as Repton proposed, and was in place by 1812. From the north end of the park there are long views south down over the dual carriageway to the lake at the bottom and up the steep pasture beyond to the north-east front of the house framed by the two clumps.

6.2.10 Closer to Shadeloes House gardens lie to the south and south-east bounded on the south and east sides by a substantial ditch which was part of a former sunken fence probably dating to the 18th century and part of the works carried out by Richmond. The gardens consist of open lawn close to the south-west and south-east fronts of the house merging into grass paths and clearings separated by clumps of mature shrubs and mature ornamental trees further from the house. Considerable clearing and development of this area of ornamental woodland took place in the 1980s with the addition of bands of ornamental shrubbery and specimen trees.

6.2.11 A small, late 20th century garden lies below the south-east front of the house and a rectangular hedged enclosure, lying below the south-west front, were designed by Elspeth Hoare circa 1960, and surround the late 18th century summerhouse (Grade II listed). Wrought-iron gates on the south-east garden boundary, aligned with the south-east front of the house, were brought in c.1960 from Newnham Paddox, Warwickshire, and open up a view of the park to the east.

6.2.12 A walled kitchen garden lies to the north-west of the parkland along the border with the A413. The kitchen garden, constructed between 1787 and 1790, lies on a south-facing slope towards the west side of the north park. The site had previously been part of a water garden drawn on a view of the park from 1730 (most likely part of the works attributed to Bridgeman in the mid-1720s) with the northern wall probably retained from this earlier water garden. Five compartments were constructed within the walled garden and contained three stove gardens, a hot house and a green house.

6.2.13 The main east entrance, providing direct access from London and Amersham, lies adjacent to the old course of the A413, 900m east of the house. The drive enters between iron entrance gates and a screen and leads past two single-storey lodges (the western being early 19th century in date and the eastern seemingly rebuilt in the 20th century). Flanked by 19th century iron fencing and mature lime trees at irregular intervals the drive curves west and north-west across the park and up a gentle gradient to the north-east front of the house. The drive has views of the park to the north and south with, at the front entrance, an extensive view across the north park and lake to the woodland at the north boundary framed by two clumps of trees to the north and east of the house.

6.2.14 A south drive, now disused and lost in places, gave access across the park from the High Wycombe to Amersham road (the A404) via Wycombe Lodge, joining the main drive 500m east of the house.

6.2.15 The west drive, now used as farm access across the park, enters from Little Missenden village circa 1.5km to the north-west giving access from the village and Aylesbury. This approach runs along the bottom of the valley parallel with the river turning south up the steep slope into woodland emerging to the north of the stables.

## 6.3 Important hedgerows

- 6.3.1 Four hedgerows within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme are considered to be historically important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 criteria for Archaeology and History<sup>11</sup>.
- 6.3.2 These all lie within or skirting the Amersham vent shaft. Three of these hedgerows once bounded the old course of Whielden Lane, recorded on the Buckinghamshire HER as a turnpike road, which most probably followed the same alignment of an older medieval/post-medieval road and partially on the parish boundary between Coleshill and Amersham (CHA072, CHA073, CHA074). A Roman road is believed to have preceded these roads on roughly the same alignment (CHA054).
- 6.3.3 The fourth historic hedgerow (CHA075) runs along the southern boundary of the Amersham vent shaft compound on the west side of the A404. This appears to have delineated the edge of a trackway between Whielden Lane and Cherry Lane to the west.

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<sup>11</sup> Statutory Instruments 1997 No. 1160 The Hedgerows Regulations 1997.

# 7 Archaeological character

## 7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 To determine the archaeological potential for the study area it was sub-divided into archaeological character areas. These archaeological character areas are derived from a consideration of the current topography, geology and current land use. From these factors the potential for recovery of archaeological remains is considered.
- 7.1.2 From these broad character areas the study area was further subdivided into archaeological sub-zones which have allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological potential to be articulated based on additional factors associated with the distribution and proximity of archaeological discoveries and local topographical features. Four archaeological sub-zones have been defined and these correspond with the three vent shaft locations and the area immediately to the west of the M25.

## 7.2 Character areas

- 7.2.1 The archaeological character areas described below extend from south to north within the study area.

### Archaeological character area 1: Chiltern Dip-slope

- 7.2.2 This area comprises chalk geology with some colluvial (head) deposits in dry valleys and extensive Clay-with-Flints strata on the upper eastern valley shoulder and the plateau. The landscape drains to the east and south into the River Misbourne which confluences with the River Colne, flowing then onwards to the River Thames.
- 7.2.3 The area is defined predominantly by pre-18th century enclosure with extensive areas of common, pasture and woodland (both ancient and replanted), and the urban centres of The Chalfonts and Amersham. Some smaller enclosures may be medieval assarts and it is possible that some narrow coaxial field systems may have prehistoric origins.
- 7.2.4 To date there have been some results from the historical analysis of aerial photography, potential results, however, are predominantly masked by woodland, urban areas and areas of drift deposits. Very few formal intrusive investigations have been undertaken though quite extensive areas have been subject to field walking and occasional metal detector surveys demonstrating character and potential.

- 7.2.5 Palaeolithic through to Mesolithic potential is recognised from areas with colluvial (head) deposits and on the Clay-with-Flints strata though this is likely to be represented by stray finds. Later prehistoric to Roman remains generally lie within the valley systems.

### Archaeological character area 2: Chiltern Misbourne Valley

- 7.2.6 The Misbourne Valley archaeological character area comprises chalk geology with some colluvial (head) deposits in dry valleys and extensive Clay-with-Flints strata on the upper eastern valley shoulder and the plateau. There are Holocene alluvial

deposits on the valley floor associated with the River Misbourne. The landscape drains to the east and south into the River Misbourne which confluences with the River Colne flowing then onwards to the River Thames.

7.2.7 The area is defined by relatively dispersed settlement made up of isolated farmsteads and hamlets within areas of pre-18th century enclosure, some co-axial field systems and areas of common and quite extensive woodland on the valley shoulder and plateau. Some enclosures may be remnant medieval assarts. Larger settlements are clustered within the Misbourne Valley on a major historic routeway. Many existing lanes in the area may have historic or even prehistoric origins. A prehistoric origin is also possible for some of the co-axial enclosures. The Chilterns landscape character has been well analysed and discussed in detail by Buckinghamshire County Council and the Chilterns Conservation Board<sup>12</sup>.

7.2.8 To date there have been poor results from the historical analysis of aerial photography due to woodland cover. Very little formal intrusive investigation has been undertaken, though quite extensive areas have been subject to field walking and occasional metal detector surveys and demonstrate character and potential.

7.2.9 Palaeolithic through to Mesolithic potential is recognised from areas with colluvial (head) deposits and on the Clay-with-Flints strata, though this is likely to be represented by stray finds. Later prehistoric to medieval remains are likely to be concentrated within the valley and on the upper slopes (especially on the eastern and north-eastern side of the valley). Within the wider region Roman villa estates and potentially associated industries may survive every 2-3km.

### 7.3 Archaeological sub-zones

7.3.1 The archaeological sub-zones are presented in Table 1 from south to north. An indication of archaeological potential for each archaeological sub-zone (ASZ) is also provided. The archaeological sub-zones are mapped on CH-03-025b to CH-03-028 (Volume 5: Cultural Heritage Map Book).

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<sup>12</sup> Buckinghamshire County Council, (2006),: *Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Landscape Characterisation: County Archaeological Service*.

Table 1: Archaeological sub-zones

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
1	Fields to the west of M25	Undulating land above the break of slope into the Colne Valley. Significantly cut and filled by the M25 corridor.	Chalk soil geology with some head deposits in valleys and extensive Clay-with-Flints on plateau. Dissected chalk plateau draining to the east and south via the Misbourne River into the Colne River and thence into the River Thames.	Farmland used for cereal crops and pasture.	Part of an area of mixed 20th century prairie field and pre-18th century enclosures.	Finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint tools to the south at Mopes Farm (CHA005) and other prehistoric settlement remains to the south-east (in the Colne Valley area (CFA07) at Denham and west at Horn Hill).  Putative course of a Roman road running from Chorleywood to Langley Park (CHA006).  The proximity of the cutting of the M25 suggests that ground disturbance associated with its construction extends to within this ASZ. Potential remains surviving below the horizons disturbed by ploughing, however, could include in-filled roadside ditches associated with the putative line of the Roman road and prehistoric settlement remains (further in-filled ditches and pits). Unstratified (surviving within the ploughsoil horizons) prehistoric flint tools and artefacts are likely to be encountered.
2	Land either side of Chesham Lane / Ashwell's Farm (Chalfont St Peter vent shaft)	Relatively flat land overlooking the break of slope into the Misbourne Valley.	Chalk soil geology with some head deposits in valleys and Clay-with-Flints on plateau. Dissected chalk plateau draining to the east and south via the River Misbourne into the River Colne and thence into the River Thames.	Pasture west of Chesham Lane.  East of Chesham Lane farmland is a mixture of arable and pasture. A cricket pitch is located to the south.	The area west of Chesham Lane is characterised by pre 18th century irregular enclosures with isolated farmsteads such as Ashwell's Farm.  The area east of Chesham Lane is characterised by 20th century enclosure with recreation areas to the south. To the north the Newlands Estate extended to Chesham Lane but this area is not thought to have been part of the park land.	Artifacts and settlement evidence of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date at Horn Hill (CHA008) (1.5km to the south-east) and a similar array of discoveries plus a possible Romano-British villa site at Misbourne Farm (CHA030) (1.3km to the north-west).  Despite the evidence of buried archaeological remains in proximity to the ASZ, the geophysical survey enacted as part of this assessment (see Appendix CH-004-008) revealed no evidence of buried archaeological remains within the ASZ. Unstratified (surviving within the ploughsoil horizons) prehistoric flint tools and artefacts, however, may be encountered.

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
3	Land to the south of Lower Bottom Farm (Chalfont St Giles vent shaft)	The land in this area forms the sides of a coombe breaking out to the north-west into the Misbourne Valley containing a small tributary to the River Misbourne.	Chalk soil geology with some head deposits in valleys and extensive Clay-with-Flints on the plateau. Dissected chalk plateau draining to the east and south via the River Misbourne into the River Colne and thence into the River Thames.	Pasture and woodland.	Pre 18th century enclosure.	<p>Artifacts and settlement evidence of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date at Misbourne Farm (CHA030), 1.8km to the east of this ASZ.</p> <p>Potential remains surviving below the horizons disturbed by ploughing could include prehistoric settlement remains (in-filled ditches and pits). Unstratified (surviving within the ploughsoil horizons) prehistoric flint tools and artefacts are likely to be encountered.</p>
4	Land either side of Whielden Lane (Amersham vent shaft)	East-facing slope of a modern road embankment to the A404.	Chalk soil geology with some head deposits in valleys and extensive Clay-with-Flints on plateau. Dissected chalk plateau draining to the east and south via the River Misbourne into the River Colne and thence into the River Thames.	Highways landscaping.	Modern road embankment respecting putative line of a Roman road, latterly a turnpike.	<p>Artifacts and settlement evidence of Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman date including a possible Romano-British villa site north of Wheatley Wood (CHA076) (1km to the north).</p> <p>Putative course of a Roman road running from Nash Mills to Flaunden (CHA054).</p> <p>This area is likely to have been heavily truncated and built-up with modern 'made ground' during the construction of the A413/A404/Whielden Lane junction.</p> <p>Potential remains including in-filled roadside ditches and possibly even road surfaces associated with the putative line of the Roman road may survive along or adjacent to the existing alignment of Whielden Lane.</p>

# 8 Analysis and research potential

## 8.1 Analysis of understanding

8.1.1 The key archaeological sites within the study area comprise:

- Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts (tools) and the buried remains of pits near Mopes Farm (CHA005);
- Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts (tools) comprising a polished axe-head, flint flakes, flint axe-heads and barbed and tanged flint arrow-heads near Horn Hill (CHA010);
- two putative Bronze Age burnt mounds; Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts; and evidence of Romano-British settlement remains near Misbourne Farm (CHA030);
- Palaeolithic flint tools; Neolithic and Bronze Age flint axes, scrapers and other waste flakes from tool making; Late Iron-Age pottery; and evidence of Romano-British settlement (possibly associated with the potential Roman villa found at Shardeloes Lake) north of Wheatley Wood (CHA074); and
- the routes of two putative Roman roads, one running from Chorleywood to Langley Park (CHA006) and a second running from Nash Mills to Flaunden (CHA054).

8.1.2 There is no specific intelligence indicating that in-situ archaeological remains survive within the four archaeological sub-zones. The evidence suggests that parts of the study area were occupied from at least the late prehistoric periods and the locations of previous archaeological discoveries share similar topographical and geological characteristics to the four archaeological sub-zones.

8.1.3 Highway construction activities in proximity to and within ASZ1 and ASZ4, however, limits the potential that archaeological remains survive and the geophysical survey within ASZ2 failed to reveal any anomalies to indicate surviving in-situ remains.

## 8.2 Research potential and priorities

8.2.1 The Proposed Scheme has the potential to increase our archaeological knowledge and understanding of the locality. Many research questions can best be formulated at either a scheme wide or at a county/multiple CFA level. These will draw heavily on the regional and period research frameworks, which have been prepared with support from English Heritage<sup>13</sup>.

8.2.2 As a result of the limited archaeological potential within the minimal areas of excavation centred on the vent shafts there are no specific research questions related to heritage assets, either known or suspected, with The Chalfonts and Amersham study area.

<sup>13</sup> Silva, B., (2008), *An Archaeological Resource Assessment of the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic in Buckinghamshire*. Prepared for the Solent-Thames Research Framework Resource Assessment: The Lower / Middle Palaeolithic Period.

## 9 Information sources

### 9.1 References

Barton, R.N.E. and Roberts, A. J., (2004), The Mesolithic period in England: current perspectives and new research. In: Saville, A. (ed), *Mesolithic Scotland and its Neighbours*. Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Edinburgh.

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Thomas, J., (1999), *Understanding the Neolithic*, Routledge, London.

Yeoman, P.A. & Stewart, I.J., (1992), *A Romano-British Villa Estate at Mantles Green, Buckinghamshire*, Records of Buckinghamshire 34, P107-182.

Zeepvat, R. J. and Radford, D., (2010), Roman Buckinghamshire, In: Farley, M. (ed), *An Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire*, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, Aylesbury.

### 9.2 Cartographic Sources

#### County Maps

1770. Jefferys' map of Buckinghamshire

1825. Bryant's map of Buckinghamshire

#### Tithe Maps

1840. Amersham Tithe Map

1840. Chalfont St Peter Tithe Map

1844. Chalfont St Giles Tithe Map

#### Enclosure Maps

1815. Amersham Enclosure Map

#### Estate Maps

Circa 1760-1810. Plan showing part of Shardeloes Park on the Aylesbury-Uxbridge Road.

1790-1810. Plan showing Shardeloes Park.

1792. The estate of Sir Hugh Palliser in the Parishes of Chalfont St Giles, Chalfont St Peter and Amersham in the county of Bucks.

1813. Plan of an Estate in the Parishes of Beaconsfield, Wooburn, Wycombe, Penn, Amersham, Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles & Farnham Royal in the Counties of Buckinghamshire and Hertford belonging to James Dupre Esquire.

### **Ordnance Survey Maps**

1876. 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map. 25 inch

1899. 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map. 25 inch

1925. 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map. 25 inch

## **9.3 Other sources**

[www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk](http://www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk)

[www.bucksas.org.uk](http://www.bucksas.org.uk)

[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

[www.domesdaymap.co.uk](http://www.domesdaymap.co.uk)

[www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)

[www.list.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.list.english-heritage.org.uk)

[www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)

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